

OLTD 502 - REFLECTION 1

Learning Outcome - Become familiar with common terms, definitions and elements related to blended and online learning environments

I have chosen one piece of evidence, which was created in November of 2014, to demonstrate support for the above learning outcome from the course OLTD 502 - Digital Learning Continuum. This evidence piece is a slideshow that was created using Google Slides. This was a group project, and the goal of this assignment, was to explore the question of whether learning takes place differently online.

There was a bit of a learning curve for me, in this project. Becoming familiar with common terms and elements in blended and online learning environments was a side product to a whole lot of other learning that was taking place. First of all, my group, consisting of three people, had to first figure out how to work together at a distance. We managed to do this by staying in touch via email, and by creating our project using Google Slides. Secondly, I needed to figure out how to use Google Slides. Fortunately, I was able to make the transition from PowerPoint, to Google Slides, quite easily as the two tools have a lot in common. Finally, I had to learn how to create a video with a phone, download it to Youtube, and then upload it into Google Slides. I learned a lot with this process. It was very helpful to take the time to learn more about 'Google Slides' and about sharing on Youtube. I had heard about both of these tools, but I had never used Google Slides, and I had only used Youtube as a viewer, not a contributor. What I liked about Google Slides, is that all members of our group could easily access our presentation, and changes were made in real time for everyone. Communication was seamless and efficient. What I liked about Youtube, is that I realized how easy it was to create a video and make it accessible publicly.

As part of this reflection, I need to ask myself an important question. How could what I experienced when becoming familiar with common terms, definitions and elements related to blended and online learning environments, help me in my job now, to help me further develop my existing courses, and to create new courses that are engaging, structured well, and supportive? To answer this question, I now feel quite confident that I can implement 'Google Slides' into my personal Tool Kit, and also into selected online courses. In particular, I will encourage my students to use Google Slides over PowerPoint, for submitting presentations simple because there are no size issues. Our online platform, Moodle, doesn't like to accept PowerPoints that have a large file size. I also feel that I could comfortably create videos and input them directly into my online courses. This is an easy and effective way to add another dimension to the student learning experience.